

HR001119S0038 SAIL-ON
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
as of 04/01/19

12Q: Can I schedule a meeting or phone call with Mr. Senator?

12A: In the interest of fairness and time, the program manager will not be available for individual meetings or phone calls. The BAA contains all the information necessary to write a successful proposal. If you have any specific questions, please ask and DARPA will update this FAQ for all interested parties to read.

11Q: For TA1, would DARPA consider a natural language processing task involving recognizing, understanding, and acting appropriately in the face of novelty from an existing corpus such as a set of science fiction scripts with these features at multiple levels of the novelty hierarchy?

11A: There is no preference as long as TA1 proposers can explain their approach for generating and inserting a set of progressively more difficult novel situations exemplifying multiple levels corresponding to their proposed novelty hierarchy in this domain. As said in response to 1Q, see page 7 of the BAA: “TA1 proposers must propose a domain for which an AI solution currently exists and explain their approach for generating and inserting a set of progressively more difficult novel situations corresponding to their proposed novelty hierarchy in this domain.” DARPA intends to select several distinct and diverse domains for use in the SAIL-ON program evaluations but only one TA1 performer per domain. DARPA will not rule anything out *a priori*. It is up to proposers to analyze and explain how their domain supports the goals of the SAIL-ON program.

10Q: What do you really want us to propose?

10A: Please see section I.C of the BAA for program description/scope.

9Q: At Proposers day, I heard that this solicitation is a cooperative agreement. I am wondering if all solicitations from DARPA are through cooperative agreements or if it will differ on a case by case basis?

9A: This solicitation may award the following types of instruments: procurement contracts, cooperative agreements or other transactions. Solicitations from DARPA are different on a case by case basis. Please refer to each specific solicitation.

8Q: The proposal requires implementing 3 domains + the DoD domain by the end of the program. Is it acceptable for all 4 domains to be in the visual classification space? The Proposer day charts have 3 examples of TA1 novelty domains: Visual Classification, Games, and

Autonomous Vehicle. We were curious if that was a coincidence or if we had 3 domains only in the visual classification space that was acceptable.

8A: Selected TA2 performers will be required to implement their AI system in 3 domains to be provided by the TA1 performers. The inclusion of 3 examples of TA1 novelty domains in the Proposers day charts was a coincidence. We do not expect that all TA1 domains will be used to evaluate every TA2 performer. The government team will be responsible for implementing TA2 performers' AI systems, with support from TA2 performers, in a DoD domain. DARPA intends to select several distinct and diverse domains for use in the SAIL-ON program evaluations but only one TA1 performer per domain. One of the goals of the program is for TA2 to demonstrate generalizable approaches. Given the stated goal of generalizability, it is unlikely that an approach which proposed to focus on 3 domains only in the visual classification space would provide enough variability to promote generalizability. Having said that, it is the proposer's job to explain in their proposal how their technical approach will achieve the program goals, and proposals will be reviewed based on the merits of the proposed approach. TA2 proposals must identify domain characteristics to which their developed capabilities would apply. The domain characteristics will help DARPA determine which TA2 proposed AI systems can pair with selected domains.

7Q: Can I have a copy of the attendees list at the Proposers day workshop?

7A: An attendees list will not be released. DARPA structured the teaming attendance list so that all attendees who supplied answers to teaming questions received answers to the same questions from other participating attendees. If you are interested in being included in updated versions of the SAIL-ON teaming list, please provide the following information to SAILON@darpa.mil: First Name, Business Name, Business Phone, "What capabilities can you offer?", "What capabilities are you looking for?". If interested, please send responses by April 4, 2019. We will then send an updated list to all participants who provided the same information.

6Q: Attachment D, Page 5, Paragraph 8, Statement of Work (SOW). For budgeting purposes in Vol 2, Cost Volume, bidders must price to both Fiscal Years and Phases, not calendar years. To cost by SOW task, bidders are instructed to detail task breakdown by calendar year. To be consistent with the costing elements in Vol 2 Cost Volume and avoid confusion, will the Government consider allowing the detailed task breakdown for the SOW to be shown by Phases rather than calendar years?

6A: Yes, tasks should be broken down by Phase and Contractor FY to align with cost breakdown.

5Q: Attachment E, Page 4, Cost Summary states cost detail should be based on Contractor Fiscal Year. However, Attachment F, Cost Summary states cost detail will be Government Fiscal Year. Request clarification as to the correct fiscal approach for Vol 2, Cost Volume?

5A: Costs for each Phase must be broken down by Contractor FY.

4Q: We are planning to submit two proposals. Should we submit two abstracts even if some of the information is redundant?

4A: Yes.

3Q: The BAA states: "Proposals must identify the characteristics and limitations of domains to which their approach may apply. Proposals must specify multiple exemplar domains that might be suitable for evaluation and application of their approach." Is a limitation to a category of problems such as "action problems", "decision problems", "design problems", or "natural language interpretation" problems reasonable? Or should proposer systems be able to demonstrate that they can perform in multiple such large categories?

3A: It is up to the proposer to identify the characteristics and limitations of their approach and how it might impact the domains their solution could be applied. The goal is generalizable approaches, but we recognize that it is a difficult task. Ambitious but realistic goals should be proposed, provided there is a credible approach to achieving them.

2Q: Where are the slides from Proposer's Day?

2A: The slides from the SAIL-ON Proposer's Day are located on DARPA's opportunities page. <https://www.darpa.mil/work-with-us/opportunities?ppl=view48>

1Q: Is my technical approach/domain for TA1 within scope?

1A: Please see page 7 of the BAA: "TA1 proposers must propose a domain for which an AI solution currently exists and explain their approach for generating and inserting a set of progressively more difficult novel situations corresponding to their proposed novelty hierarchy in this domain." DARPA will not rule anything out *a priori*. It is up to proposers to analyze and explain how their domain supports the goals of the SAIL-ON program.